IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A mattress, comprising:

a resilient body having at least one upper surface portion for supporting a person; and

a plurality of shallow surface channels disposed in the at least one upper surface portion and extending parallel thereto;

wherein said at least one upper surface portion is upwardly inclined, and wherein along at least a part of the length of said surface channels in the inclined upper surface portion, a direction of elongation of said surface channels is inclined relative to the horizontal.

2. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the body has an axis of elongation corresponding to the head-to-toe direction of the person lying, in use, on the mattress, and at least one upper surface portion is inclined relative to the axis of elongation.

3. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 2, wherein at least some of the surface channels have a component of direction, along at least a portion thereof, parallel to the direction of rising incline of the respective surface portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 2, wherein at least some of the surface channels have a component of direction, along at least a portion thereof, parallel to the axis of elongation.

5. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein at least some of the surface channels extend substantially diagonally so as to make an angle of less than 90° with the axis of elongation.

6. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein at least some of the surface channels have a non-linear path, when viewed from above.

7. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the body comprises

sidewalls adjacent said at least one surface portion, the mattress further including at least one connecting channel, the at least one connecting channel being in communication with a plurality of said surface channels and with at least one sidewall.

8. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 7, wherein the at least one connecting channel is disposed in the at least one upper surface portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 7, wherein the at least one connecting channel includes a connecting channel extending centrally parallel to said axis of elongation, and/or includes a connecting channel extending substantially transverse to said axis of elongation.

10. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said surface channels have a transverse dimension at the surface of about 4 to 15 mm.

11. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said surface channels are spaced apart at the surface by about 5 to 20 mm.

12. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said surface channels have a transverse cross-sectional area that varies along the length of the channel.

13. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said at least one upper surface portion includes a body surface portion for supporting, in use, the body of a person, a head surface portion for supporting, in use, the head of a person, and/or a top surface portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 7, wherein the connecting channel extending substantially transverse to said axis of elongation extends along the lowermost region of said head surface portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein, for one or more of the surface portions, said surface channels are provided over substantially the entire surface area thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said surface channels are distributed over substantially the entire surface area of said surface portions.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein the resilient body comprises sidewalls and said surface channels have a transverse cross-sectional area that increases in size with proximity to the sidewalls.

19. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, further comprising a support supporting the mattress, the support including a substantially flat base surface and said body having an upward incline along a centerline from a foot portion to a head portion.

20. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said at least one upper surface portion for supporting a person is configured in the form of a seat.

21. (Previously Presented) The mattress of claim 1, wherein said at least one upper surface portion comprises a plurality of sections, at least two of the sections having different patterns of the surface channels.

22. (new) The mattress of claim 1, the mattress further including at least one connecting channel, the at least one connecting channel being in communication with a plurality of said shallow surface channels and together are configured to enable an inflow of cool air and an outflow of warm air.